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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/053,264	01/23/2002	David Henry Levy		8694

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P.O. BOX 1022  
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55440-1022

EXAMINER
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ORTIZ, BELIX M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2164

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	01/12/2007	PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/053,264

Applicant(s)

LEVY, DAVID HENRY

Examiner

Belix M. Ortiz

Art Unit

2164

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 September 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 3-10 and 27-40 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 3-7, 10 and 27-40 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 8-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

## Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## DETAILED ACTION

### Remarks

1. In response to communications files on 27-septembre-2006, claims 3, 8, and 28 are amended are added per applicant's request. Therefore, claims 3-10 and 27-40 are presently pending in the application.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.
3. Claims 8-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) (Eff. Filing date of application: 12/18/2000) as being unpatentable over Gough et al. (U.S. patent 6,360,221) (Eff. Filing date of application: 9 /21/1999) in view of Padwick et al. (Eff. Filing date of manual: 5/12/1999).

As to claim 8, Gough et al. teaches a computer-implemented document editing method (see column 1, lines 6-13) comprising:

receiving a predefined string of characters into an electronic document entered by a user, wherein the predefined string of characters represents a placeholder for unknown information (see figure 2);

transmitting the query to a database located remotely from the first computing device (see figures 4-6 and 13);

identifying, from the context data included in the transmitted query, what information is unknown (see figure 6, character 600 and figure 8);

transmitting a response containing responsive information to the first computing device (see figure 13, column 15, lines 66-67 and column 16, lines 1-5);

displaying the response to the user (see column 15, lines 66-67 and column 16, lines 1-5); and

inserting the responsive information into the electronic document in response to receiving an approval of the response from the user (see column 15, lines 66-67 and column 16, lines 1-5).

Gough et al. does not teach recognizing the predefined string using a first computing device, and, in response to recognizing the predefined string automatically assembling a query that includes a set of context data extracted from a portion of the electronic document disposed proximate to the placeholder; and

searching the database for the unknown information.

Padwick et al. teaches creating, sending, and receiving electronic document (see manual), in which he teaches recognizing the predefined string using a first computing device, and, in response to recognizing the predefined string automatically assembling a query that includes a set of context data extracted from a portion of the electronic document disposed proximate to the placeholder (see figure 3.30, 3.33, 3.39, and 3.40);

searching the database for the unknown information (see page 1, paragraphs 8 and 9).

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Gough et al. by the teaching of Padwick et al., because, recognizing the predefined string using a first computing device, and, in response to recognizing the predefined string automatically assembling a query that includes a set of context data extracted from text a portion of-the electronic document disposed proximate to the placeholder;

searching the database for the unknown information, would enable the method because, the user can response to the sender faster and the user can attach more information to the electronic message.

As to claim 9, Gough et al. as modified teaches the method further comprising:  
automatically inserting the responsive information into the electronic document in response to receiving an approval from the user (see page 26, paragraphs 10-11 and page 27, figure 3.48 and paragraphs 2-3).

***Allowable Subject Matter***

4. Claims 3-7, 10, 27-40 are allowed.

***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Belix M. Ortiz whose telephone number is 571-272-4081. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 9am-5pm.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

bmo

May 30, 2006



**CHARLES RONES**  
**SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER**